UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,382	10/06/2003	Heinz-Jurgen Bergemann	2001P12005WOUS	1823

46726   7590   05/04/2007
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EXAMINER
PIERRE, MYRIAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>02/15/07</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) <u>18</u> is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This communication is in response to remarks filed 01/31/07.

2.   Claims 1-18 are pending, claim 18 is new.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37

CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been

timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR

1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/15/07 has been entered.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be

allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim

and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 02/15/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Forest (5,999,895) does not disclose "permanently storing a

set of programs specific to language regions in the memory" and "memory storing a set or

programs, from which at least two different ones of said programs can be called up specifically

for language regions". This argument is not persuasive. The claims are not in Donaldson's step

and therefore, the argument of Forest only displaying the menu options in different languages

and not having programs specific to language regions, making available in associates set of

programs specific to language regions, will not be read into the claims. The claims do not

require the limitation at the time of the office action was issued, applicant has not provided the

distinctions that there are multiple programs based on selected language region, thus the

applicant has not provided the claim language based on the argument being presented. Forest's

programs are stored in a computer readable medium, the plurality of sequences (programs) in an

ideographic language, such as Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, Abstract, col. 24 lines 10-18, col.

28 lines 45-67 and col. 25 lines 47-58. Therefore, Forest does teach permanently storing a set of

programs specific to language regions in the memory, and teaches all the limitations of claims 1

and 12 and Forest does disclose "memory storing a set of programs, from which at least two

different ones of said programs can be called up specifically for language regions".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on
> sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forest (5,999,895).

As to claim 1, Forest teaches

A method of operating a program-controlled household appliance (col. 29 lines 20-25),

which comprises: storing a set of program sequences in a memory and indicating the program

sequences when required (col. 26 lines 26-47); permanently storing a set of programs specific to

language regions in the memory (col. 28 lines 23-56 and col. 28 lines 45-67); individually

selecting and activating at least one of the programs with an external program selector having

selector positions (col. 28 lines 23-40); permanently assigning each of the selector positions to at

least one of the programs (col. 28 lines 16-32); providing additional functions for manipulation

of a program selected by the program selector (col. 28 lines 22-50); selecting a desired indicating

language by input manipulation (col. 29 lines 26-47); and making available an associated set of

programs specific to language regions for selection by the program selector when an indicating

language is selected (col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26; Abstract, col. 24 lines 10-18, col.

28 lines 45-67 and col. 25 lines 47-58).

As to claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

providing the set of programs specific to language regions with corresponding user information

(col. 28 lines 45-67; col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26).

As to claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

selecting the indicating language with a selector switch (col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29

lines 1-26).

As to claim 4, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

after selecting the indicating language, permanently assigning each position of the

program selector a program specific to a language region and permanently assigning each

program a set of user information items specific to a language region (col. 28 lines 45-67 and

col. 29 lines 1-26 and lines 35-40; col. 28 lines 45-67 and Figs. 61 and 64-67).

As to claim 5, which depends on claim 5, Forest teaches

providing the indicating language selecting step as a reversible indicating language

selecting step (col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26; selecting language is reverse or

changing language option).

As to claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

reversing the indicating language selecting step after selecting the desired indicating

language by input manipulation (col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26).

As to claim 7, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

separately selecting the programs specific to countries and the user information specific

to languages from one another (col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26).

As to claim 8, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

acknowledging the language selection with an indicating element (col. 28 lines 45-67 and

col. 29 lines 1-26).

As to claim 9, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

acknowledging the selected indicating language with an indication of an internationally

intelligible symbol (col. 70 lines 27-40; col. 28 lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 1-26).

As to claim 10, which depends on claim 9, Forest teaches

wherein the symbol is at least one of a letter and a word in the selected language (Figs. 61

and 64-67).

As to claim 11, which depends on claim 1, Forest teaches

indicating at least one of an operating state and a program sequence with one of

internationally customary symbols and terms customary in the selected language, the symbols

and terms being permanently associated with the program (col. 70 lines 27-55 and Figs. 61 and

64-67).

As to claim 12, Forest teaches

A method of operating a program-controlled household appliance (col. 29 lines 20-21)

with a set of program sequences stored in a memory and indicated when required, with an

external program selector, by which programs are individually selected and activated, each

position of the program selector being permanently assigned a program, and with additional

functions for manipulation of a selected program (col. 30 lines 43-63), which comprises:

permanently storing a set of programs specific to language regions in the memory (col. 28 lines

45-67 and col. 25 lines 47-57); selecting a desired indicating language by input manipulation

(col. 29 lines 35-40); and making available an associated set of programs specific to language

regions for selection by the program selector when an indicating language is selected (col. 28

lines 45-67 and col. 29 lines 35-40).

As to claim 13, Forest teaches

In a program-controlled household appliance, a control panel comprising: a memory

storing a set of program sequences (col. 24 lines 15-16); a controller connected to said memory

and programmed to execute said program sequences and indicate said program sequences (Fig.

15, element 2106 and col. 25 lines 47-57); an external program selector having selector

positions, said program selector connected to said controller for individually selecting and

activating said programs, each of said selector positions being permanently assigned to one of

said programs (col. 26 lines 27-46); functional units for manipulating a selected one of said

programs (col. 26 lines 27-46 and col. 28 lines 45-67); an indicating area having: program and

function selection elements (col. 27 lines 28-55); informational elements for informing a user

about a selection of said programs and said functional units (col. 29 lines 50-67); and a display as

an indicating element for indicating respective ones of said programs and parameters of said

programs (col. 28 lines 16-32); said memory storing a set of programs (col. 25 lines 47-57), from

which at least two different ones of said programs can be called up specifically for language

regions (col. 28 lines 45-67; Figs. 61 and 64-67); and operator control elements functionally

linked to a command control of said controller for a selection of languages and programs specific

to at least one of language regions and user information (col. 28 lines 45-67).

As to claim 14, which depends on claim 13, Forest teaches

said display indicates the selected language (col. 28 lines 35-40).

As to claim 15, which depends on claim 13, Forest teaches

said external program selector is a rotary selector having a number of positions for

selecting said programs (col. 24 lines 26-40); and each of said positions is assigned an indicating

element displaying an alphanumeric indication (col. 28 lines 16-32 and Fig. 38).

As to claim 16, which depends on claim 15, Forest teaches

wherein said indicating element is a single display on which an assigned program is

indicated according to a position of said rotary selector (col. 29 lines 35-40 and Fig. 31).

As to claim 17, which depends on claim 17, Forest teaches

wherein the indication of said program on said display contains therein individual

parameters of a selected one of said programs (col. 28 lines 45-67).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Myriam Pierre whose telephone number is 571-272-7611. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30.

8.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Dwayne Bost can be reached on 571-272-7023. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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04/27/07

DWAYNE BOST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER